THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):(a)No,Sir.

(b) For the purpose of monitoring the status of the storage capacities of the reservoirs, the Central Water Commission collect the necessary data in respect of 71 indentified reservoirs in the country from the respective State Government and provides weekly storage position to the Crop Weather Watch Group of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture for evolving suitable crop strategies. The information is also made available to various Ministries and Departments involved in water resources planning. The combined live storage capacity of the 71 reservoirs is 131.28 billion cubic metre.

(c) Does not arise.

Erosion by Ganga River

† 781. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for the permanent solution to the problem of severe erosion by river Ganga in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar to West Bengal;

(b) if so, the present status of the schemes thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of arrangements made by Government to stop the exodus of the people from more than twenty villages of the Patori, Mohanpur, Vidhyapati Nagar areas of Samastipur District in the State of Bihar which are getting affected by the severe erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Flood Management schemes including anti erosion works, being State subject, are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments as per their own priority. The assistance rendered by the Central Government is technical, catalytic and promotional in nature. However, the Ganga Flood Control Commission, set up by Government of India in 1972, has prepared comprehensive plan for flood management for all 23 river systems of Ganga basin and fowarded the same to the State Governments for taking

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

up follow up action on the recommendations made in these plans. In these comprehensive plants both short term and long term measures have been suggested.

In order to render financial assistance to Ganga basin States, the Government of India sanctioned a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a central share of Rs. 110 crores in January, 2001 to take up Critical Anti Erosion Works against which amounts of Rs. 16.33 crore to Uttar Pradesh; Rs. 34.91 crore to Bihar and Rs. 27.66 crore to West Bengal have been released so far. Further, in continuation to the above scheme, based on the recommendations of the committee set up by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme estimated to cost of Rs. 178.75 crore with'a Central share of Rs. 136.17 crore has also been approved which *inter alia* includes schemes to take up critical anti erosion works in the Ganga basin States including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal for implementation during Tenth Plan.

(d) The villages referred to in the question are in the vicinity of Chandpur-Dhamaun and Rasalpur on the left bank of the river Ganga. Government of India has already provided Central Assistance for providing bank protection in this reach in the year 2001 -and 2002 and the scheme has already been completed at a total cost of Rs. 260.00 lakh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme sanctioned in January, 2001. Further, another scheme estimated to cost Rs. 532 lakh with a Central share of Rs. 399 lakh to take up the Critical Anti Erosion Works in the above areas has also been included in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation during Tenth Plan.

Report of the task force on interlinking of rivers

† 782. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 101 given in Rajya Sabha on 18th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Task Force constituted on 13.12.2002 to carry out study under scheme for connecting peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.